

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's review of the above-identified patent application and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's remarks noting that claims 1-19 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections.

With this amendment, Applicant has amended the independent claims to clarify their meaning. Applicant respectfully reminds the Examiner that MPEP § 2173.02 states, in relevant part,

The examiner's focus during examination of claims for compliance with the requirements of definiteness is whether the claims meet the threshold requirement of clarity and precision, not whether more suitable language or modes of expression are available. (*Emphasis added.*) When the examiner is satisfied that patentable subject matter is disclosed, and it is apparent to the examiner that the claims are directed to such patentable subject matter, he or she should allow claims which define the patentable subject matter with a reasonable degree of particularity and distinctness. (*Emphasis Original.*)

Applicant further reminds the Examiner that:

Definiteness of claim language must be analyzed, not in a vacuum, but in light of:

(A) The content of the particular application disclosure;

(B) The teachings of the prior art; and

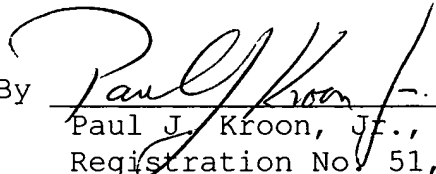
(C) The claim interpretation that would be given by one possessing the ordinary level of skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made.
(MPEP § 2173.02)

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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